

Chair’s Message for December

Thank You 34th!

34th District Democrats,

It has been an honor to serve as your Chair over the past 2 years. My journey as Chair began the night after the 2016 election when I announced my candidacy, citing my then 14-year old twins as my motivation to run. I couldn’t explain to them what had just happened, it didn’t make sense to me. But I could show them how you respond in situation like this, when everything you hold dear is threatened: you stand up and fight!

Now, two years later, it is again my kids who are driving a big decision on my part. My son Anthony needs my help, and I simply cannot give him the attention he needs and properly fulfill this critical role in the organization, and so, after careful consideration, I’ve come to the decision not to seek another term as Chair. It’s not easy to step down when the work is so important and there’s more work to do, but this is a path I simply must take for the sake of my family, and I hope you’ll all understand.

As the current Executive Board wraps up our term, I’d like to take a moment to highlight just some of what this organization has accomplished together over the past two years:

- We started out with the most attended local party organization meeting in living memory in the state of Washington, which required renting the Vashon Room downstairs and live-streaming video into that room to accommodate the record-breaking attendance for our “Resistance!” program.
- We tripled our membership from the previous term, and brought new energy, fresh faces and more people of color than ever to our Executive Board. We also more than tripled our reach on social media, redesigned and modernized our website and created a new logo that’s been copied by other LDs around the state. Mimicry truly is sincerest form of flattery.
- We made a decision early on to focus our energy on Burien in 2017, so we were prepared and organized when a slate of deplorable candidates aligned with white nationalist West Seattleite Craig Keller attempted to seize control of the Burien City Council. We canvassed every weekend, we canvassed in the rain and snow, we energized voters who’d never participated before and we won all four open seats on the city council with our Fantastic Four candidates: Nancy Tosta, Jimmy Matta, Krystal Marx and Pedro Olguin.

Continued on page 7...



Join the 34th District Democrats at our Annual Holiday Party!

December 12, 2018

6:30 PM

at the Hall at Fauntleroy, 9131 California Ave SW
On the “C” Line - Parking in back of the hall

Please bring a potluck main dish, side dish or dessert or two to share.

Come and celebrate our 2018 victories!

It’s back...Ivan Weiss’ famous smoked turkey!

Renew or Become a Member at

34dems.org

www.34dems.org/contribute

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Executive Board

Elected Officers

David Ginsberg | Chair
chair@34dems.org

First Vice Chair | Vacant

Michael Taylor-Judd | Second Vice Chair
vicechair2@34dems.org

Ann Martin | State Committeewoman
wsdccw@34dems.org

Chris Porter | State Committeeman
wsdccm@34dems.org

King Co. Committeewoman | Vacant

Martha Koester | King Co. Committeewoman Alt.
kcdccwa@34dems.org

Les Treall | King Co. Committeeman
kcdccm@34dems.org

Ted Barker | King Co. Committeeman Alt.
kcdccma@34dems.org

Jason Cheung | Secretary
secretary@34dems.org

Gina Topp | Treasurer
treasurer@34dems.org

Committee Chairs

Michael Taylor-Judd | Bylaws
vicechair2@34dems.org

Data & Technology | Vacant

Tai Yang-Abreu | Digital Communications
info@34dems.org

Sean Riley | Diversity & Inclusion
inclusion@34dems.org

Steven Jamieson | Events
events@34dems.org

Katie Harris | Finance
Finance@34dems.org

Chris Porter | Fundraising
wsdccm@34dems.org

Hospitality | Vacant

Tim Marshall | Legislative Action
lac@34dems.org

Membership | Vacant

Steve Butts & Karen Richter | Outreach
outreach@34dems.org

Brooks Salazar | PCO Coordination
pco@34dems.org

David Ginsberg | Program
chair@34dems.org

Other Roles

Steve Butts | Newsletter Editor
newsletter@34dems.org

Allan Munro | Parliamentarian

Nick Bohall | Web Editor
webmaster@34dems.org

KCDCC Meeting Notes for November 27, 2018

There is a lot to celebrate about the Blue Wave. It looks like Democrats will have gained 40 seats in the House, including Kim Schrier's win in the 8th CD.

The treasure's report shows a \$10,616 negative balance so we are making progress toward getting that paid off.

There was discussion of the proposed rules for reorganization, with controversy over ranked choice versus approval voting. The latter was approved. If you are a PCO and planning to attend the reorganization and eat lunch, please let Marvin Rosete know on his Facebook page so he can estimate the amount of food required. <https://www.facebook.com/ChefMarvinRosete/>. The quorum required was reduced from 25% to 15%. Appointment of new PCOs was removed from the agenda. Want to help? Get to the IAM hall by 8am 12/1/2018.

People running for KCDCC position who were present made brief appeals.

The Credentials Committee would like more people to volunteer and reminded us that you do not need to be a PCO to serve.

Resolutions Committee proposed two resolutions, one endorsing the capital and operating levies for Seattle Schools to be held in February 2019, and one endorsing raising the age for tobacco use from 18 to 21. Both passed.

Good of the Order: Alison Taylor is recovering nicely, and she thanked everyone for support. If you can attend the King County Charter Review, please do so.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/independent/charter-review-commission.aspx>

Submitted by Martha Koester, KCDCC Committeewoman Alternate

New King County Officers Chosen for 2019-2020

The King County Democrats held their reorganization meeting Saturday December 1st at the Aerospace Machinists hall in South Park. 320 PCOs from across the county came to vote for new officers. DNC member Sharon Mast served as Temporary Chair, then later as Permanent Chair, designated such by the newly elected Chair. After a forum with the current chair Natalie Reber and Shasti Conrad, the election for Chair took place. Conrad won 237 to 75. Conrad's slate of candidates, "Vision 2020" all won officer slots.

During periods of ballot tallying various officials had the opportunity to speak, including State Chair Tina Podlodowski and King County Auditor John Wilson.

These are the new officers of the King County Democrats:

Shasti Conrad, County Chair

David Fleetwood, 1st Vice Chair

Julia Reed, 2nd Vice Chair

Jen Carter, 3rd Vice Chair

Joshua Vaughn, 4th Vice Chair

Roger Crew, Secretary

Eric Valpey, Treasurer

Nathaniel Block, State Committeeman

Sophia Danenberg, State Committeewoman



34th District Bulletin Board

34th District Democrats Meetings

All meetings of the 34th District Democrats are open to any of our members.

Executive Board

Puget Ridge Co-Housing Common House
7020 18th Ave SW

Wednesday, December 19, 7:00 p.m.

Other Meetings or Events:

West Seattle Drinking Liberally

Pizzeria 22, 4213 SW College St.
Every 1st Tuesday, 6:00 pm

Evergreen Democratic Club

Angelo's Italian Restaurant
601 SW 153rd St., Burien
Please note new start time:
Tuesday, December 11, 12pm

Metropolitan Democratic Club

Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 12-1:30 pm

Burien Drinking Liberally

Angelo's Italian Restaurant
601 SW 153rd St.

Special Holiday Date:

Wednesday December 5, 6:30 pm

West Seattle Democratic Women

Contact Rachel Glass at werdachel@aol.com
For more information regarding the next meeting

King County Democrats Monthly Meeting

No Meeting in December

Help Plan for Our Future

Saturday December 15, 1 PM

In the Common House at Puget Ridge Cohousing
7020 18th SW

We enjoyed some great successes in 2018, but our work must to continue as we look toward the Presidential Election in 2020. This coming January we will be reforming the leadership of the 34th District Democrats, picking those that wish to help direct our efforts as we prepare for municipal elections in 2019, and potential precinct caucuses the following year.

Have you been thinking about getting more involved with the 34th? This is your chance to learn more about the various roles on the Executive Board, and what the standing committees do.

Plans are underway for an informal gathering to discuss what we should be doing the next 2 years...and who wants to do it.

There is a wealth of talent across the 34th District, and we need you to bring your skills, your ideas and your enthusiasm!

If you are interested in running for one of the officer spots, or as one of our delegates, you can also get information how to contact the incoming voting PCOs.

All are Invited - Plan to Attend

For more info contact: les.treall@gmail.com

See Page 7 for descriptions of officer roles



Photos from the rally against anti-Semitism Sunday, December 2 in The Junction. The rally was organized by Hate Free Delridge, to show support for victims of anti-Semitic vandalism to homes in Sunrise Heights the previous week. Photos courtesy of the West Seattle Blog.

Contact Information and Committee Assignments for Our Legislators

Senator

Sharon Nelson

Senate Democratic Leader
Rules
316 Legislative Building
PO Box 40434
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7667



Representative Eileen Cody

Chair, Health and Wellness
Appropriations
303 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7978



Representative Joe Fitzgibbon

Chair, Environment
Finance
305 John L. O'Brien Building
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 786 - 7952



Letters and Submitted Articles

We are Democrats, and like most Democrats we have strong opinions and like to express them. We welcome letters and articles.

All submissions are subject to editing. If submissions need to be shortened, you will be given the option of editing your own work.

Photos and notices of upcoming events are always welcome.

The deadline for the January 2019 newsletter will be Thursday December 28, 2018.

Mail to Steve Butts,
10254 36th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146
or email to swbutts@comcast.net

In Case You Missed Our Last Meeting...

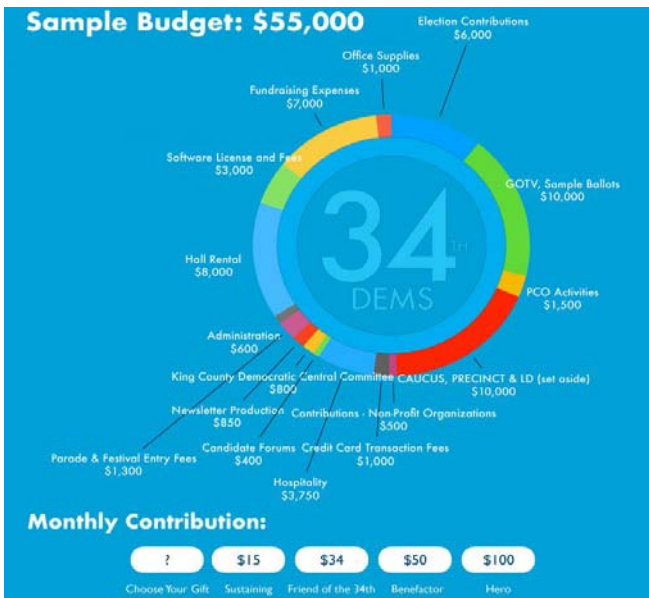
Chair David Ginsberg's report unsurprisingly was about the mid-term elections the prior week. The early called races didn't reveal the true picture of what the outcome election of 2018 would look like. Late returns from states like California and Arizona keep coming in and favoring Democrats...instead of a blue wave, it is turning out to be a "Blue Glacier". Democrats won (at meeting time) an additional 38 seats in the US House, and flipped 7 governorships. We also gained an addition 6 trifectas of states – Governor and and state houses/senates being controlled by the Democratic Party. The winners now better reflect the racial and gender diversity that is America.

In Washington State, we strengthened our majorities in the House and Senate. We took all 3 seats in the 47th and handed Dino Rossi a fourth defeat in the 8th CD.

There was discussion about the upcoming party reorganization. The King County reorganization meeting would be Saturday, December 1 at the Aerospace Machinists Hall in South Park. All PCOs elected in the August Primary are eligible to vote for the new leadership roster. Our reorg will be at our January 9th meeting, at which all officer positions are open for election by anyone who wishes to run. Chair Ginsberg has not decided whether or not to seek another term as Chair. One change will be made to comply with the DNC: Representatives to the state party will be referred to as "State Committee Members" to allow for those self-identifying as "gender nonbinary" in addition to male or female classifications. The two positions must be filled by different gender categories.



Michael Taylor-Judd leads us through the proposed contribution plan for next year.



The graphic representation of our typical expenditures that will greet donors on our Contributions page of the website.

Michael Taylor-Judd led a discussion revisiting a new recommended membership donation schedule continuing from the October meeting. The plan was simplified, removing most one-time suggested donation amounts to leave it open for people to choose to support at their personal comfort level. It is hoped that members will opt to use a monthly contribution plan, with \$15 a month being the basic sustaining plan. A pie chart detailing our annual costs will greet donors on our donation page. It was stressed repeatedly that there is to be no minimum finan-



Ivan Weiss rises to speak against the proposed new contribution levels.

cial requirement to be a member of the 34th Democrats. After speakers pro and con, the new plan was approved by show of credentials.

David Ginsberg brought forth a motion on behalf of Tom Rasmussen to endorse a planned Seattle Parks “Aids Memorial Pathway”. Unfortunately this project was unfamiliar to members, so no action was taken until we could learn more about it.

We passed an endorsement for signature gathering for I-1000 to overturn the 20 year ban on affirmative action that was put in place by I-200 in 1998. This is a second shot at this goal: I-1644 failed to qualify for the ballot this year. If successful, this initiative could be on the ballot in the 2019 General Election.

Michael Taylor-Judd stood again to lead the discussion over the censure of outgoing PCO Dan Gage over a dispute earlier in the year with a neighbor over her dog. It is claimed on a police report that he used the “n-word” and overstated the authority of PCO. The office of PCO is an elected position and not subject to dismissal by the 34th District Democratic Organization. Dan had refused to resign, leaving censure as the sole alternative. After the motion was passed, Dan chose to speak, and disputed the claims against him.

The rules were suspended by vote so that Leslie Harris could ask for our endorsement for two school bond renewals coming February 12. Leslie said she rose to speak as an individual and longtime 34th member, rather than as our elected School Board member. She was thankful that the Families, Education, Pre-school and Promise Levy passed this month, but she warned us that Seattle Schools will still face a \$45 million shortfall. The two levies will secure the capital and operations budgets.

County Council Chair Joe McDermott spoke about the \$11 Billion budget that was recently passed. In it are funds to address homelessness issues and affordable housing, immigrant and refugee support, a census outreach fund, money for increased gun safety. There is also money to improve the taxi ferry dock without increased fares, and money for the South Park Improvement Club.



County Councilmember Joe McDermott gives a rundown of the newly-passed county budget.

Photos by Jon Shields

The 2018 Election: A First Impression By Jeff Johnson

On the surface, the 2018 General Elections had a number of firsts as well as creating the means to place some checks and balances on the Trump administration. However, it is too early for the type of comprehensive analysis we need to help us organize for systemic progressive change.

An initial impression is that the elections were a first step in recovering some of America's lost dignity and respect. Lost, in no small measure, by President Trump's vitriolic hate speech, condemnation of the press and the judiciary, anti-immigrant rhetoric and policies, support for white supremacists, and encouraging his base to feel comfortable in their hate, anger, and bigotry.

According to just released FBI statistics for the first year of Trump's Presidency, hate crimes were up 17 percent, and anti-Semitic attacks have increased 27 percent. Many suspect that these statistics far undercount what is actually happening out there.

Clearly, taking back the US House of Representatives allows democrats to stop the attacks on Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, hold hearings on Medicare-For-All, mitigate some of the worst proposed budget cuts, and to investigate Trump and his administration.

However, the soul of America is still up for grabs. Whether and how we deal with systemic inequality, "Just Transition," Climate Change, racism, health care, and the commonwealth will determine whose voice and what set of values we will hold dear going forward. By the numbers the Democrat side of the US House of Representatives is the most diverse and the most female in history. On January 3, 2019, 50 Democratic freshmen will take office, 40 of whom are women, including: the first Native American; two Muslim women; four lesbian and gay members; an immigrant born in Somalia and one from Ecuador; a pediatrician; a former CIA official; two Democratic Socialists; and three former military officers. The count to date – there are still some races too close to call – the Democrats have picked up 32 seats giving them a 227 to 199 majority. It is expected that the Democrats are likely to pick up another 8 seats after recounts.

In the US Senate, the Republicans have picked up 2 seats giving them a 51 to 47 majority with a run-off election taking place in Mississippi later this month and a manual recount in Florida. Democrat Kyrsten Sinema picked up Jeff Flake's seat in Arizona, and Democrat Jacky Rosen picked up Dean Heller's seat in Nevada.

One caveat: many Democrats newly elected were endorsed by the New Democratic Coalition. The NDC is a centrist organization that in its own words are "pro economic-growth, pro innovation, and (for) fiscally responsible policies." Sounds to me like a reinvention of Bill Clinton's Democratic Leadership Council of the 1980's that swung democrats away from the more progressive policies of the 1960's and 1970's. The war over who the Democratic party is and what their core values are continues.

Across the nation Democrats took seven Governor's seats from the Republicans, increasing to 23 the number of Democ-

atic Governors; six state legislative chambers flipped to Democratic control; Republican state super majorities were broken in four states, and a number of progressive ballot measures were passed.

Minimum wage increases will happen in Arkansas and Missouri; Portland will fund environmental equity; Medicaid expansion passed in Idaho, Nebraska, and Utah; gerrymandering was outlawed in Michigan, Colorado, and Missouri; Florida returned voting rights to previously convicted felons; and other measures banning water privatization and providing significant funding to address homelessness passed in various cities and states.

In Washington State, I-1631, the carbon fee measure providing investments in clean energy, equity, and "Just Transition" was defeated by \$31 million of oil industry money and lies. In Washington State Democrats have picked up 6 seats in the House: Ramos and Callan in LD 5; Leavitt in LD 28; Shewmake in LD 42; Mead in LD 44; and Entenman in LD 47. Paul is leading by 191 votes in LD 10. Should Paul win, the Democrats will have a 57 to 41 majority in the House.

On the Senate side, the Democrats have picked up 2 seats – Wilson in LD 30 and Das in LD 47. At this point the Democrats have a majority of 27 to 22 (this does not count Tim Sheldon).

In LD 26 democrat challenger Emily Randall is down by 134 votes to Republican Jan Angel and in LD 42 Democrat challenger Pinky Vargas is down by 72 votes to Republican Doug Ericksen.

Andy Billig (LD-3 Spokane) has been elected the new Majority Leader for the Democrats in the Senate.

Given the new Democratic majorities in both the House and the Senate there is the possibility of passing some much needed legislation around worker misclassification, reducing carbon emissions and climate change, long-term care, health care reform, rebuilding the social safety net, and funding state employee wages and benefits, community and technical college employees' salaries and benefits, and increased funding for labor education.

What passes depends on us holding legislators that we supported accountable to the issues they said they supported during the campaign. Whether we can further increase majorities in 2020 will depend on the values exhibited and the bills passed in the State House and Congress over the next two years.

The bigger job of reclaiming America's soul in part depends on developing candidates and support structures for labor and community voices to be heard. One part of that is training folks up. Please contact Cherika Carter, Field Mobilization Director for the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, if you are interested in participating in our Path to Power candidate training program in March 2019. Cherika can be reached at ccarter@wslc.org

Jeff Johnson is President of the Washington State Labor Council. He will retire at the end of 2018.

Reprinted with permission from the Retiree Advocate, a publication of the PSARA Education Fund

- This year, after Senator Sharon Nelson resigned and two of our talented Democratic candidates made it through the primary - both endorsed by the 34th - we decided to turn our focus to another local party organization and lend them our strength and help flip a seat or two. We chose the 47th, where Democrats won all three seats, flipping 2 from the Republicans, and in the process helped elect the first Democrat to represent the 8th CD: Dr. Kim Schrier.
- Finally, in preparation for 2020 we've set aside \$20,000 toward caucus expenses (which were around \$30,000 in 2016). The organization is well-positioned financially for the upcoming presidential election cycle, perhaps better than any other local party organization in the state.

As we come together on Wednesday for our annual holiday party, we have so very much to celebrate. I said in my first Chair's Message that the road ahead wouldn't be easy, but it would be rewarding, and we would win. And

win we did! The blue wave may have taken weeks to establish its reach, perhaps it was more of a blue glacier than a wave, but in the end we flipped 40 seats in Congress, the most since Water-gate. The Republican president finally has a check on his abuses of power, and here at home Democrats flipped more seats in the state legislature, and we now have a strong enough majority to finally get moving beyond gridlock and get some big things done for the people of Washington.

It's been a highly rewarding two years working with such a talented and committed Executive Board and so many enthusiastic volunteers. The 34th is such an incredible organization and it's been my honor to serve as your Chair. I'll close my final Chair's message with a familiar note about the road ahead: It won't be easy, but it will be rewarding. And we will win!

In solidarity,

David

David Ginsberg
Chair, 34th District Democrats

Get More Involved...Run for Officer in the 34th District Democrats

Every 2 years the Washington State Democratic Party reorganizes itself from the grassroots up. This is your chance to get involved, to help shape the future of the Democratic Party. **Anyone may run – the only qualification needed for office is a desire to help.** We welcome and encourage you to think about ways you can serve.

How you can help the 34th District Democrats realize our hopes and dreams?

PCOs elected in the August Primary will vote for Chair, Vice Chairs, Party Delegates and Alternates. Any member in good standing (e.g. an active member for 2019) may vote for Secretary and Treasurer.

Elected Officers of the 34th

Chair- leads the Board, presides over all meetings, is the chief executive officer of the organization, is the spokesperson for the organization, is an ex-officio member of all committees, may appoint ad hoc committees and their chairs, delegates to other organizations deemed appropriate, and any other duties as implied by the title. Represents the district as a member of the KCDCC executive board.

First Vice Chair - succeeds the Chair in the event that s/he resigns or is removed from office until a special election is held; and presides over all meetings at the direction of, or absence by, the Chair; acts as a spokesperson for the organization at the direction of the Chair; provides any administrative duties as deemed appropriate by the Chair; serves as an alternate delegate for the Chair on the KCDCC Executive Board; and any other duties as implied by this title.

Second Vice Chair - succeeds the First Vice Chair in the event that s/he becomes the Chair; performs any administrative duties deemed appropriate by the Chair, and any other duties as implied by this title.

Secretary - responsible for the minutes, any administrative duty deemed appropriate by the Chair, and any other duties implied by this title.

Treasurer - chief financial officer of the organization and shall receive and disburse all funds of the organization, shall maintain proper financial records, including filing of PDC reports, submitting a financial report each month for distribution to the membership, and submitting an annual financial report in a timely fashion, for distribution to the membership.

Delegates

King County Committeeman and **Committeewoman** - Will attend monthly meetings at the King County Democrats Central Committee Executive Board as voting members. **Male** and **Female Alternates** are to attend if the Committeepersons are unable.

State Committeeman and **Committeewoman** - Will attend quarterly meetings of the Washington State Democrats held at various locations across the state, serving as voting members.



Newsletter Editor
10254 36th Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98146

Return Service Requested



Join the 34th District Democrats!

Sign up by filling out this form and mailing it with a check made payable to:
The 34th District Democrats, 6523 California Ave SW, Box 183, Seattle, WA 98136-1879

Or join at online 34dems.org/contribute/

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Zip _____

If you use a P.O. Box, do you live in the 34th District? Yes ___ No ___

Email _____ * Occupation _____

*Employer _____ * Employer City _____

* Required by Washington State Public Disclosure Commission/ Contributions are not tax deductible.

If interested in paying your dues in monthly installments contact the treasurer for more information.

- \$3 Living Lightly
- \$34 Friend of the 34th
- \$50 Sponsor
- \$1,000 Endowment
- \$100 Benefactor
- \$250 Sustaining
- \$500 Underwriter

In the interest of protecting our environment and building funds to support endorsed candidates, the 34th District Democrats wish to communicate electronically.

Please check this box if you do not have access to electronic communications and need to receive a mailed newsletter

Paid for and authorized by 34th District Democrats. 6523 California Ave SW Box 183, Seattle, Washington 98136. Contributions to this committee are not tax deductible. State campaign finance law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, employer and city and state of employment for each individual whose contribution exceeds \$100 in the election cycle.